Extension of Vallakkadavu Canal to the A. V. M. Canal.

70. ✱ MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state what all steps have hitherto been taken up to the present for extending the Vallakkadavu Canal to the A. V. M. Canal?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is pending investigation.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know when the investigation was begun and when it is likely to be completed?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I do not know about the previous history. Recently I examined one or two sites, and I found that we would have to do it again.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know when it is likely to be completed?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Possibly in about six months or a year.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether investigation is going on now?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is so.

Road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin.

71. ✱ MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for further widening of the concrete road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin; and

(b) if so, what is the urgent and immediate necessity therefor?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: *(a)* Yes.

(b) The present concrete surface is insufficient for lwo lines of traffic and deep ruts are formed on the edges of the concrete surface making cutting edges causing damage to tyres and springs.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether this insufficiency was not brought to the notice of Government, and if so, who was responsible for this default?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I could not say that. I have been much more concerned with what I could do, rather than with the other work of finding who was responsible for the fault.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether an estimate has been prepared and the probable cost of the work now contemplated ascertained?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: About Rs. 15 lakhs.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether it is possible for Government to ascertain the probable loss incurred by them on that account?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is possible for there has been an enormous increase in the price of materials in the market. Another reason is that the prices have increased mainly due to inflation. The labour charges too have gone up.

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